

**Salford Standing Advisory Council On
Religious Education.**

Annual Report.

2021.



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SALFORD SACRE – 2021.

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Section 1. – Forward From the Chair of Salford SACRE.

Section 1. (a) - Welcome and Thanks.

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Salford Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) 2021.

In what has been yet another unprecedented challenging and difficult year, our SACRE continues a journey striving to be advocates of best practice of religious education, collective worship and 'Beacons of Hope' – in ways which best benefits our networks of schools, colleges, stakeholders, and partners.

The hard work, effort, commitment, and dedication of our SACRE members has once again ensured the continued successful functioning of our body this year. With this latter thought in mind I would like to offer my ever so grateful appreciation, thanks, and gratitude to all our SACRE members, LA officers, schools, and teachers for the amazing work undertaken by them across the LA this year.

During this year we were very fortunate to welcome back to our SACRE Professor Nawal Prinja representing the Hindu faith community through their recently established national Hindu Education Board. Nawal serves on Committee A and is already offering valuable insights and contributions on the teaching of Hinduism as well as useful advice and guidance on Hindu collective worship strategies.

Additionally, on behalf of SACRE, I also extend our welcome to five other new members. With regards to Committee A, we are delighted that Andrew Gallimore has joined us representing the Salford Baptist community. Likewise, we are also fortunate to have Joyce Yap working with us and representing the local Bahá'í faith community on Committee A too. We are extremely grateful to the Church of England who last Summer nominated two additional members from their faith community to represent them on our SACRE. These 2 new latter members being the Reverend Karen Owen and Reverend Gareth Thomas, both sitting on Committee B.

I'm also pleased to report that the LA in consultation with our SACRE has now granted membership voting rights to David Milne, our humanist representative sitting on Committee A. May I take this opportunity on behalf of our SACRE to thank David for his ongoing commitment and service. As a SACRE, we are particularly impressed with the way David goes into schools from time to time offering insights on humanistic perspectives. Likewise,

we are also extremely grateful for the excellent work Imran Kotwal - our Muslim Committee A representative has been doing, delivering talks and lessons on Islamic beliefs, and teaching within our schools.

I wish to also take the opportunity of thanking Alex Klein, our Jewish Representative on Committee A, Kindra, our consultant to SACRE and Kerril our Vice Chair for all the hard work they do in the preparation, planning and delivery of the annual City Holocaust Memorial commemoration event in collaboration with the city council's Equalities and Community Cohesion team.

We are also delighted with the LA decision to co-opt on to our SACRE, the LA Head of Service and former HMI, Neil Fazackerley. Neil not only offers us wise counsel and guidance but is also actively working with a few teachers and myself in pre-planning our meetings within a SACRE subcommittee forum.

As we move into another year of uncertain times, I am sure that we will continue to work as a community to support our schools, children, and young people in all aspects of our SACRE work.

David Levien.

Chair of Salford SACRE.

January 2022.

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Section 2. – Religious Education.

Section 2. (a) The Agreed Syllabus

The current 2016 RE thematic agreed syllabus was written by RE Today. The authors are Stephen Pett, Kate Christopher, Lat Blaylock, Fiona Moss, Julia Diamond-Conway Images, including cover images, courtesy of NATRE/Spirited Arts © NATRE Published by RE Today Services, Imperial Court, Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH.

Our SACRE working collaboratively with 4 other Greater Manchester SACREs, those being Manchester, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford; agreed together to adopt their syllabus in 2016.

This syllabus reinforces the importance of religious education as an academic discipline. It aims to enable understanding of concepts and the development of skills and attitudes so that that pupil can explore wider issues of religion and belief in religiously literate ways. This syllabus seeks to prepare children and young people of Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, and Trafford for active citizenship in a diverse and rapidly changing world, exploring some aspects of British values in relation to religions and world views. The five SACREs who have collaborated in adopting this syllabus recognise their local areas as vibrant and unique, with much diversity of religion and belief. The population includes very large communities of tens of thousands of Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Jewish people and Sikhs and smaller groups of other significant faith communities including Jains, Buddhists, and members of the Bahá'í faith. Many children come from families that hold non-religious life stances. RE taught using this syllabus allows all learners to share their experiences and to learn from one another and the religions and beliefs in our community. This rich diversity influences the religions and beliefs to be taught in RE. This syllabus makes space for all pupils to explore their own beliefs, values, and traditions, and those of others in engaged and engaging ways. RE taught using this syllabus aims to support children to develop positive attitudes of respect towards people from all religions and world views. This syllabus continues in the tradition of ensuring that RE is responsive to the changing nature of schools and education. The syllabus enables schools to respond effectively to the government's Prevent Strategy and to the Ofsted Framework for Inspection which requires schools to '... ensure high standards of achievement, learning and behaviour for their pupils, as well as contributing to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.'

Salford SACRE decided to continue with the current agreed thematic syllabus (subject to certain changes/amendments) written by RE Today and in conjunction with 4 other GM local authorities (Tameside, Trafford, Stockport, Manchester). The new version of the amended syllabus to be launched in Spring 2022 handles the following issues:

The syllabus consists of completely renewed sections, ensuring it is compliant with up to date with government guidance and legislation, as well as current concerns in the RE community and the wider educational world from the last 5 years.

This includes:

- A new EYFS section reflecting revised early learning goals.
- A new SEND section reflecting an RE application of the new 'engagement model' for SEND pupils.
- Some rewriting of the 31 primary and 12 secondary medium term page plans to align them with the OFSTED priorities of intent, implementation, and impact, to update links and suggestions and to focus some of them more sharply on teacher-planning for successful learning.
- A new section (or web supplement) on RE's contribution to cultural capital.
- A new section (or web supplement) on progression in learning and using key vocabulary and concepts.
- A revised section on achievement, assessment and using the outcomes which emphasises curriculum sequences, knowledge building and progress lesson-by-lesson, unit- by- unit and term- by-term.
- Some new materials on anti-racism and RE, linked to the current section on British Values.
- Some optional additional units for KS2 and 3 on topics which have become urgent in recent years – e.g., units on climate change and justice with a focus on religious teaching and practice around environmental issues.

There are 2 New Agreed RE Syllabus Launch Conferences scheduled details as follows:

- Thursday 10 February 2022 at the Village Hotel, Ashton under Lyne.
- Thursday 17 March 2022 at Manchester Central.

The aims of the day to enable teachers to:

- Familiarise themselves with the new RE syllabus and all its legal and planning requirements.
- Consider and work towards better RE through high-quality implementation of the new syllabus.
- Examine examples of good quality curriculum examples in RE which emerge from the syllabus.
- Understand how to use the syllabus to raise the status and standards of RE.
- Plan for better RE in the coming years in their school.

Section 2. (b) Other additional information:

The online syllabus can be digitally available free to all schools, but we will provide a short version for school websites and parental/other stakeholder access. We will make several supplementary papers available for all schools for free online access.

Section 2 (c) GCSE Results for 2021

This year 7 High Schools entered pupils for GCSE RE. All three Catholic schools entered over 90% of their cohort for the exam. Other schools had between 2 and 26 entries in their cohort. Overall, 25% of the Salford Cohort took RE. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide data for one secondary academy, as they do not agree to share attainment data with the Local Authority.

Attainment in RE at GCSE

Grades 9-4 2018 69% (70% national)

2019 63% (72% national)

2020 not available

2021 (Teacher assessed) 77% - (no national figures)

Grades 9-5

2018 57% (59% national)

2019 49% (61% national)

2020 not available

2021 (Teacher assessed) 65% (no national figures)

Grades 9-7

2018 26% (28% national)
2019 20% (31% national)
2020 not available
2021 (Teacher assessed) 34% (no national figures)

Section 2. (e) Complaints concerning RE

There have been no complaints concerning RE.

2. (f) Professional and Administrative Support Throughout 2021

Salford SACRE was supported by an administrative officer who is employed by Salford Council.

The LA has a budget designed to support SACRE coverage of basic running costs and allows members to represent Salford at national conferences and contributes towards Salford's Holocaust Memorial Events. In addition, extra funding has been made available to support the new and amended RE syllabus launch conference to be held in February and March 22.

Section 2. (f) Summary

This has been a productive year for Salford SACRE, particularly in terms of gaining agreement, time and funding for the development of the 2022 syllabus review. There had been a high level of debate about the aims of Religious Education in schools and about the strategies to meet these aims, with a wide range of contributions from members at well-attended meetings.

Section 3. Collective Worship.

Determinations.

There have been no applications for determinations during 2014- 2015.

Complaints concerning Collective Worship.

There have been no complaints received about collective worship.

Section 4. - SACRE Arrangement Section.

4. (a) Membership of Salford SACRE

Committee A

Christian Denominations & Other Religions + Religious Denominations

Alexander Klein - Jewish

Pat Wilson - Methodist

Imran Kotwal - Muslim

Sandra Burgess - Roman Catholic

David Milne - Humanist

Andrew Gallimore - Baptist

Prof. Nawal Prinja - Hindu

Joyce Yap - Bahá'í

Committee B

Church of England

Reverend Daniel Burton

Reverend Karen Owen

Reverend Gareth Thomas

Committee C

Teachers Associations

Anne Broomhead - NUT

Kerril Casey - NEU - VICE CHAIR

David Levien - VOICE - CHAIR

Committee D

Local Authority

Councillor Bellamy

Councillor Brocklehurst

Councillor Bailey

Councillor Coen

Councillor A Saunders

Councillor J Walsh

Officers

Kindra Belcher - Educational Consultant

kindra.belcher@salford.gov.uk

Sophie Wroe - Clerk

sophie.wroe@salford.gov.uk

4. (b) Salford SACRE Membership Overview/Issues

Our SACRE has met three times this year. The first two meetings of the year were held virtually and the third at Buile Hill Conference Centre in Salford. The dates of these meetings as follows:

23rd February 2021. Virtual Meeting.

7th June 2021. Virtual Meeting.

7th October 2021. Face-to-Face Meeting. Buile Hill Conf Centre, Salford.

Note: The third meeting fully complied with Covid health measures/guidance.

The first two meetings of the year were taken up with matters as follows:

- Discussion issues connected to proposed amendments to be made to the existing agreed syllabus which is in partnership with 4 other Greater Manchester SACRE Bodies to be re-launched early next year.
- Discussion on reports on Salford LEA primary and secondary RE teacher networks supplied through our SACRE Consultant and Vice Chair – both serving RE teachers here in Salford.
- Discussion and resolution of voting rights issues linked to one of our members serving on Committee A as a representative of the Humanist Society. By the time we met in person as a SACRE at the Buile Hill Conference Centre, Salford in October it had finally been agreed – and rightly so in my view, that humanists were entitled to full SACRE membership voting rights.

Following on from the 7th of June virtual meeting, I'm delighted to report that it was agreed that our SACRE subcommittee planning group should reform and start meeting again. This group had not met since the start of the pandemic. The idea of a SACRE subcommittee planning group is something I and others had originally been promoting ever since I became a member of SACRE back in March 2016. This group had been meeting off and on through 2017-19 and then stopped due to pandemic related pressures. Happily, with the support from within our SACRE including our new co-opted LA representative, our sub-committee planning group reformed just before the end of the summer term and is now made up of mainly teachers and myself.

Once again, I am appreciative, grateful, and thankful to all our sub-committee planning group members for agreeing to serve on this team and for the time, commitment dedication they all demonstrate and give to this initiative. Their work is now bearing fruit to the huge benefit of our wider SACRE team.

The current participants of this sub-committee planning group are Sandra Burgess, Headteacher at St Teresa's RC Primary School, Salford and serving on Committee A representing Roman Catholics, Kindra Belcher, Consultant to Salford SACRE; Kerril Casey, our Vice Chair and Secondary Head of RE. at Ellesmere Park High School, Salford together with Neil Fazakerley and myself as Chair.

We held our first official meeting again virtually on 14TH September 2021 last. The team focused on planning our last SACRE meeting of 2021 and held on the 7th October at 4,00 p.m. at Buile Hill Conference centre, Salford. On the back of a lot of hard work by the planning group, our third SACRE meeting of the year proved to be a highly successful event. The main item on the meeting agenda centred on key SEF related issues. Within my role as Chair, I had outlined the aims and purposes of the meeting. Sandra Burgess then delivered a short presentation around the issues our sub-group felt our SACRE needs to tackle over the next 12 to 18 months or so. Employing the NASACRE toolkit as an aid, members were then divided up and placed within structured working groups. They examined a range of RE and Collective Worship issues as they related to circumstances here in Salford. Each working group delivered feedback in a report back session and this was followed by an open discussion exercise and plenary.

It was the consensus at our last meeting that although there have been a few challenges faced by SACRE recently, we are nevertheless as a group with certainly and confidence moving to a better place now: To maintain momentum and synergy it was agreed as follows:

- To fully embrace the importance of reinforcing and supporting our shared common vision and interest for excellence and best practice in the work we all do for SACRE and by extension hopefully benefitting the schools, teachers, and students we serve here in this City of Salford.
- Encouraging and empowering members to take on ownership of identified tasks we are required to perform with the intention of spreading our workload across the membership and not leaving responsibilities on the shoulders of the committed few.
- A need to put together an Annual Report for NASACRE by January 2022 deadline.
- Post meeting, the sub-group will need to meet again and work through members findings and chart our next steps. We are aiming to move SACRE forward with identified priorities to be the subject of discussion and actions at our forthcoming Mach 2022 SACRE meeting.

As we move into another year of uncertain times, I am sure that we will continue to work as a community to support our schools, children, and young people in all aspects of our SACRE work.

Section 5. - Links With Other Bodies.

Salford SACRE remains a member of NASACRE. One of our members, Alex Klein, has been serving as acting treasurer on the national executive of NASCRE. We also sent several delegates to the online 2021 annual conference, and they reported back to us afterwards. There are strong links with the Jewish Board of Deputies and Salford SACRE meetings include regular feedback from members who have attended the conferences of this group. At a local level, SACRE has links with the Salford Schools Forum and the Salford Council Equalities and Community Cohesion Team. This cohesive approach has been particularly evident in the collaboration around the annual Holocaust Memorial events. Links with other Greater Manchester authorities on syllabus collaboration and implementation have been described above. Salford SACRE's involvement in Greater Manchester hub teacher meetings has been maintained throughout 2021 by the primary RE hub leader, including involvement in the RE Conference preparations organised by this group and to be held in February and March 2022. (See Section 2 – Agreed Syllabus above).

Section 6. - Wider Areas of SACRE Involvement.

National Holocaust Memorial Day

From 2006 to 2011 Salford SACRE played a big part in organising the city's annual commemoration of The Holocaust. Since 2012 the main responsibility for the public memorial event passed from SACRE to the city council's Equalities and Community Cohesion Team. This was mainly because the educational advisers and administrative assistants who had previously done this work were no longer employed directly by the council. The January 2022 event is to be held at the University of Salford. Several of Salford SACRE members are involved heavily in its organisation and delivery. As had been the case in the past, Salford SACRE is keenly encouraging school student participation in these Holocaust commemorations. Pre-pandemic these events have seen participation from young people from Salford's Roma community, all of whom are educated in Salford high schools. They gave a talk on their ancestors' involvement in the Nazi persecution of this community. Other young people from the Jewish communities have read poems and told the story of at least one grandparent's experience caught up in those tragic events.
